



MULLIN'S NOTES

The Official Newsletter of the 19th Assembly District



MARCH 2008



Tom Lantos
1928–2008

It saddened me to learn that on February 12, Representative Tom Lantos passed away from complications resulting from esophageal cancer. Lantos, whose congressional district stretched from San Francisco's west side to San Carlos, spent nearly 30 years in service to his beloved country. After learning in December of his cancer, Congressman Lantos said, "It is only in the United States that a penniless survivor of the Holocaust and a fighter in the anti-Nazi underground could have received an education, raised a family, and had the privilege of serving the last three decades of his life as a Member of Congress. I will never be able to express fully my profoundly felt gratitude to this great country."

A life-long advocate for those most vulnerable, he helped form the Congressional Human Rights Caucus 25 years ago, and traveled the world giving a voice to all those who don't have one. Having escaped from a Hungarian concentration camp, he brought to Congress a unique understanding of human suffering and an appreciation of the freedoms we enjoy in this country.

Although Congressman Lantos is no longer with us, his impact on the Bay Area will always be remembered. From the thousands of students he taught in his 3 decades as an economics professor at San Francisco State, to all those whose lives are made easier by the Millbrae BART and the soon to open Devils Slide bypass tunnel, his memory will live on.

We have been very fortunate to have been represented by a legislative giant like Tom Lantos. His compelling life story has been an inspiration to us all. My thoughts and prayers go out to Annette and the entire Lantos family.

Millbrae Hosts Annual Lunar New Year Festival and Parade



Photo by Sarah Phelps

Lion dancers perform at the The City of Millbrae's Annual Lunar New Year celebration.

BY SARAH PHELPS
FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

On Sunday, February 10, the City of Millbrae celebrated the Year of the Rat by hosting its Annual Lunar New Year Festival and Parade. The parade began in the Mervyn's parking lot and wound its way through downtown Millbrae. Among

the marchers were students from Challenge School who were playing the drums, the Capuchino High School Marching Band, Meadows School, Green Hills Elementary School, and Lion Dancers from Yau Kung Moon in San Francisco. The Millbrae City Council was pleased to see the large number of residents who turned out to watch

the parade and attend the festival, and said the celebrations grow larger each year. Parade observers especially liked the extremely talented lion dancers, who thrilled the crowd with their acrobatics. After the parade ended, the festivities continued until late in the afternoon, marking another successful Lunar New Year celebration.

Helpful Steps for Prospective College Students

It is never too early to start planning for college. The earlier you start, the more options you will have. As a former teacher and the Chairman of the Assembly Education Committee, I have witnessed the powerful effects of a college degree. California is a leader in higher education. With 109 community colleges, 23 CSU's, 10 UC's, and many more private colleges and universities, there is a place in college for you. But getting started as soon as possible is your key to having the most choices.

Getting a college education is not only a great experience, but it will also help you earn more money. The Center for Public Education

says that people with a college degree earn 72% more than those with only a high school diploma. That can add up to millions of dollars in your lifetime.

Getting a college education is affordable too. Tuition to California's community colleges are some of the lowest in the nation. Government grants and fee waivers are available to those in need and do not need to be repaid. There are also thousands of scholarships available to those who qualify.

Below is a timeline of important dates. Be aware these dates are only guidelines. Please check with the appropriate school or organization for specific deadlines.

FRESHMAN & SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Become more involved with extracurricular activities and take on leadership positions.
- Begin developing effective studying techniques.
- Take courses in preparation for college.

JUNIOR YEAR

- Take the PSAT in the fall.
- Take the SAT or ACT, and the SATII in the spring.

SENIOR YEAR

August

- Colleges mail applications to interested students.

September

- Write and rewrite your personal statements.

October/November

- Take the ACT or SAT.
- CSS Financial Aid Profile Registration deadline for early admissions.
- Begin submitting college applications (check with each college campus for their early and regular decision application deadlines).

December

- Decisions mailed to early decision applicants.

January/February

- Deadline for CSS Financial Aid Profile Application for regular admissions.

- Deadline for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Reply deadline for admitted early decision students.

April

- Decisions mailed to all regular decision applicants.
- Some colleges provide notification of financial aid awards in the same mailing.
- Attend on-campus programs for admitted students.

May

- Reply deadlines for admitted regular decision students.

August/September/October

- Attend on-campus orientation programs.
- Congratulations on your matriculation!

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Save Me A Spot In College!

Attending college can be a rewarding and life changing experience, but it can also be very expensive. The cost of tuition and books can be overwhelming. As Chair of the Assembly Education Committee, I would like to let you know of a scholarship opportunity available to students. For the third year in a row, the Campaign for College Opportunity is holding its Save Me a Spot in College scholarship contest. This contest is an effort to hear young Californians speak on how a college education can change their lives and provide a better future for California. More than \$100,000 will be awarded to over 100 California students.

Key contest info:

- Students may submit a written word, poster,

or TV ad answering the question: "Why should California leaders save you and your friends a spot in college?"

- Students may submit one entry in each of the three categories
- Contest is open to all students in grades 6-12
- Scholarships range from \$500-\$2500
- Submissions must be postmarked no later than March 15, 2008
- Winners will be announced in May 2008

The contest is made possible by a generous grant from the College Access Foundation of California, The California Department of Education, and schools across the state. For more information or to register, please visit www.collegecampaign.org/contest or call 1-800-459-9586.

ASSEMBLYMEMBER GENE MULLIN *Committees*

Standing Committees: Education (Chair) • Budget • Budget Subcommittee #2 – Education Finance • Budget Subcommittee #4 – State Administration • Housing and Community Development • Public Employees, Retirement & Social Security • Water Parks and Wildlife

Select Committee: Select Committee on Biotechnology (Chair)

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